

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 FTC-01 FEA-02

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P 242114Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6697

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TD, EIND

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS RETURNS FROM TRIP TO EUROPE AND US

1. WHEN I MET PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AT THE AIRPORT UPON HIS RETURN TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 23, HE WAS IN EXUBERANT MOOD STEMMING FROM WHAT WAS APPARENTLY A VERY GOOD SERIES OF MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO IN PARTICULAR.

2. FINANCE MINISTER CHAMBERS EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT MEETINGS IN US WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS (AT WHICH GOTT SEEKING CAPITAL FOR TRINIDADIAN INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION SCHEMES) HAD GONE "VERY WELL." THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED THAT PRIVATE SECTOR WAS MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO TRINIDADIAN NEEDS THAN GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN. WHILE NOT REVEALING THE DETAILS, HE DID LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MAKE TO TRINIDAD PEOPLE.

3. MINISTER OF COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR WILL NOT RETURN FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS HE HAS PROCEEDED TO MINNEAPOLIS, WHERE TRINIDAD PRIZE-WINNING STEEL BAND (MARITIME HATTERS) IS PERFORMING AT MINNEAPOLIS AQUATENNIEL CELEBRATION. THIS AGAIN AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE GOTT

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GIVES TO THESE STEEL BAND APPEARANCES IN UNITED STATES.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WERE ALSO AT AIRPORT SINCE DR. WILLIAMS HAD VISITED THEIR COUNTRIES AS WELL ON CURRENT TRIP. HOWEVER, WHILE THEY HAD A GOOD BIT TO SAY WITH JAMAICAN AND MYSELF, WILLIAMS AND ENTOURAGE VIRTUALLY IGNORED FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE, PERHAPS INDICATING THAT VISIT TO FRANCE BY COMPARISON HAD NOT GONE QUITE SO WELL.

5. COMMENT: IT IS PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT THAT AT END OF LONG EFFORT TO ENLIST FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO INVEST IN JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOTT, WILLIAMS HAS HAD HIS MOST RESPONSIVE RECEPTION FROM US PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS COULD PARTIALLY TAKE THE BLOOM OFF OF ASSUMPTION HERE THAT FUTURE FOREIGN INVESTMENT WILL PRIMARILY BE GOVERNMENTAL (E.G. FROM OTHER OIL STATES), AND CERTAINLY POLISHES LUSTRE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AS VIABLE GOTT PARTNERS. I BELIEVE WE CAN ANTICIPATE A MAJOR TV REPORT TO THE NATION BY THE PRIME MINISTER THURSDAY EVENING (JULY 25) AFTER THE CABINET MEETING.

6. PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY EXPRESSED CURIOSITY AS TO WHETHER NEW YORK TIMES OR WALL STREET JOURNAL HAD CARRIED REPORT OF WILLIAMS' REMARKS (PRESUMABLY IN NEW YORK). WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING. WOULD APPRECIATE CITATION TO ANY SUCH ARTICLE WHICH DID APPEAR.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO01773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740201-0911
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740721/aaaaasbc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS RETURNS FROM TRIP TO EUROPE AND US
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, EIND, TD, US, (WILLIAMS, ERIC EUSTACE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005